



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: §
LUC DEBOER §
Serial No.: 10/622,025 §
Filed: July 17, 2003 §
Title: SYSTEM FOR DRILLING OIL §
AND GAS WELLS BY VARYING THE §
DENSITY OF DRILLING FLUIDS TO §
ACHIEVE NEAR-BALANCED, §
UNDERBALANCED, OR §
OVERBALANCED DRILLING §
CONDITIONS §

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please add the following new claims:

-- 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a drilling rig located at the surface to facilitate offshore well drilling operations.

3. The system of claim 2, further comprising a charging line having an upper end located at the surface and a lower end connected to the wellhead injection apparatus, said charging line for establishing communication between the surface and the wellhead injection apparatus to facilitate delivery of the base fluid from the surface into the wellbore.